The National Sporting Library NEWSLETTER

A Research Center For Horse And Field Sports — Middleburg, Virginia

Number 84 — 1954 • Fifty-Three Years • 2007 — Summer 2007

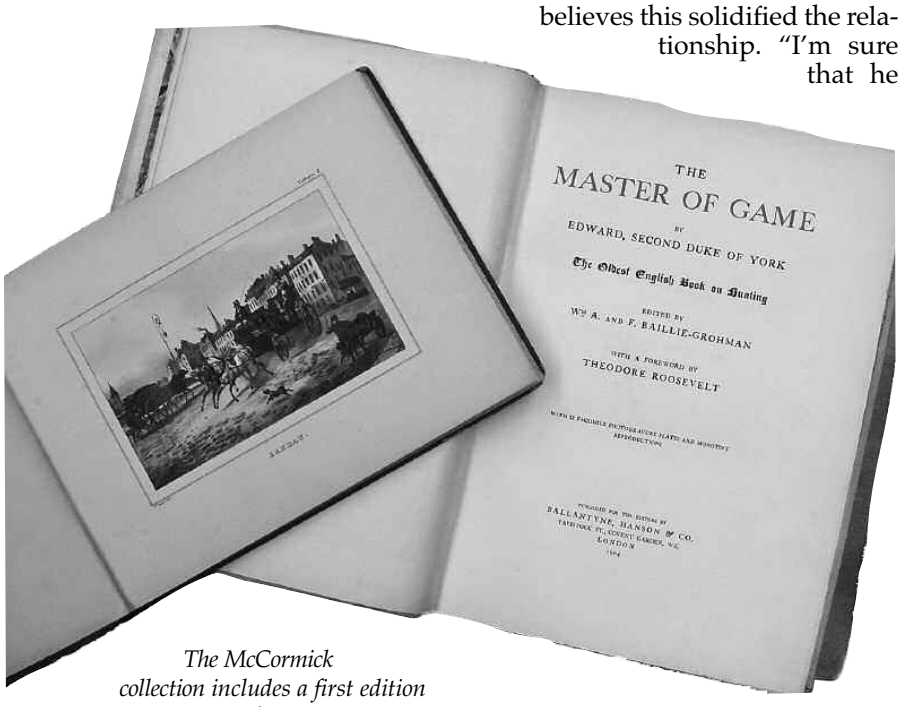
Bequest Reflects Sportsman's Passion

Chicago philanthropist Brooks McCormick, who "loved everything horses" according to an acquaintance, bequeathed more than 550 sporting books—all in excellent condition—to the National Sporting Library. The titles reflect the enthusiasm he held for foxhunting, coaching, and competitive sports such as eventing and steeplechase.

McCormick, a 1940 Yale graduate who lived in Chicago and at St. James Farm in Warrenville, Illinois, died August 15, 2006 at the age of 89. A champion of environmental causes, a noted philanthropist, and a force in the business and cultural life of Chicago, McCormick was also the former MFH of the Wayne-duPage Hunt.

"He was a great sportsman," said Peter Winants, director emeritus of the NSL. When he was editor of *The Chronicle of the Horse*, Winants hunted with McCormick in the early 1980s.

He recalls, "After hunting one day, we went back to Brooks' St. James Farm for dinner. At that time, I distinctly remember looking at his library with him, and I happened to mention the National Sporting Library and told him a little bit about it." Winants put McCormick on the mailing list so he would receive newsletters, and Winants believes this solidified the relationship. "I'm sure that he thought that this is a viable organization and a good home for his books," Winants said.



The McCormick collection includes a first edition of Victor Adam's Panidochéme ou Toutes Sortes de Voitures *(London, 1830), with hand-colored lithographed plates such as Landau (left). Also from the collection is a rare 1904 edition of* Master of Game *(right), one of 10 special folio-size editions, after an original 14th century manuscript by Edward, Second Duke of York.*

McCormick's other connection to Middleburg was through his daughter, Abby McCormick O'Neil of

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Paul Mellon, here at the 1952 Piedmont Point-to-Point with his wife Bunny, left an incomparable collection of Munnings' paintings at the Yale Center for British Art in New Haven, Conn.

Munnings Enthralls

"Sir Alfred Munnings was the very best painter of horses in the world during the 20th century, and Paul Mellon, one of its preeminent collectors of art. Here at the National Sporting Library, these giant talents converge in a charming, personal way at our current exhibition, Reflections on a Life with Horses: Paintings by Sir Alfred Munnings from the Paul Mellon Collection at the Yale Center for British Art."

—National Sporting Library Art Curator Betsy Manierre

In this story's opening quote, NSL Art Curator Betsy Manierre is referring to sixteen paintings by the British artist Sir Alfred Munnings (1878-1959), currently on view

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Books

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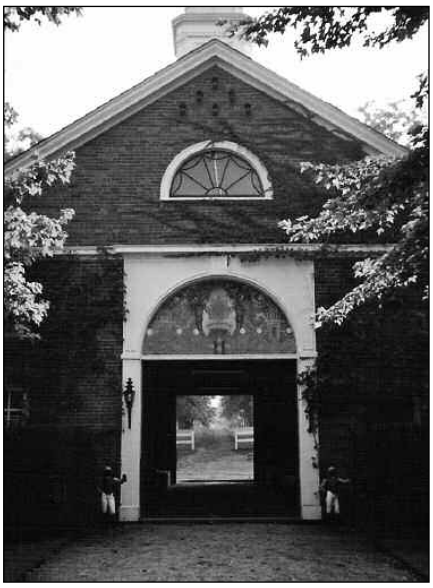
Chicago, who attended Foxcroft School. "He liked Middleburg and he loved steeplechase," she said. "He spent a great deal of time deciding where his book collections should go; he was very thoughtful about this." O'Neil added that her father's rare book collection was extensive.

"We've received some outstanding and very well-cared-for books," said Librarian Lisa Campbell. "It consists of many rare and contemporary books dating from the early 1800s to late 20th century. Some are signed by the author, and there are several limited editions."



The McCormick stables are renowned for their architectural magnificence, apparent in every detail.

Many titles, she noted, are new to the NSL, and those that are duplicates are in such pristine condition that they will replace NSL copies. The Brooks McCormick Collection will be established and will consist of the antiquarian, rare, signed, and limited editions from his bequest—all housed in the F. Ambrose Clark Rare Book Room.

"He had an incredible library," said photographer Raymond Woolfe, a former steeplechase rider who designed a steeplechase course at McCormick's St. James Farm in Warrenville, Illinois, in the 1980s. "He had beautiful old foxhunting books and one of the most complete equestrian libraries."

McCormick's great-uncle, Cyrus Hall McCormick (1809-1884), invented the reaper when he was 22 years old. At that time he lived in the Shenandoah Valley, just north of Lexington, Va. Today the McCormick Farm is a National Historic Landmark and open to the public.

The reaper, considered a revolutionary farming implement, made its debut in 1831. Credited with hastening the westward expansion of the United States, McCormick's "Virginia Reaper" won the prestigious Gold Medal at London's Crystal Palace Exhibition in 1851, catapulting McCormick to world celebrity status. Cyrus relocated his reaper business from Virginia to Chicago in 1847, and from there, proceeded to become one of the most successful businessmen in Chicago.

In 1902 the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company that Cyrus had started with his family merged with the Deering Harvester

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St. James On Horseback

Nancy Parsons, President & CEO of the Library, recalls her visit to St. James Farm in the early '90s.

I had the good fortune of meeting Mr. McCormick and visiting St. James Farm years ago. Mr. McCormick was kind enough to give me a magnificent horse to ride on my visit. Tarlenus was a striking gray warmblood, and it was great to see St. James Farm on horseback. That weekend I was a guest at the St. James Steeplechase and the related events. I feel a very personal connection to this collection of sporting books, as they remind me of my wonderful visit.

Nancy Parsons is aboard McCormick's mount, Tarlenus.

White House Horses Creates Splash

Jacqueline Ohrstrom, left, and Liz Clark were on hand to enjoy White House Horses festivities at the exhibition opening.

Dr. William Bushong, historian and webmaster of the White House Historical Association, gave a spirited and informative lecture May 10 about the NSL's current show, *White House Horses,* located in the Forrest E. Mars Sr. Exhibition Hall. In an illustrated presentation to commemorate the opening, Bushong emphasized the important role working and pleasure horses filled for American presidents, at times relaying poignant sides of these U.S. leaders. For example, during Teddy Roosevelt's tenure, his son's pony, Algonguin, was led up the steps to the young boy's bedroom in an effort to lift his spirits. Dexter, a champion trotter whom Ulysses S. Grant drove during his presidential campaign, proved that president's mettle as a horseman. Of the modern presidents, Bushong said, Ronald Reagan was the most avid horseman, and he kept many horses at his Rancho Del Cielo in California.

The *White House Horses* exhibition will remain on view until October 5, 2007.

Munnings

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at the National Sporting Library until March, 2008. The show, which opened April 20, was preceded by a Chairman's Council opening reception the previous evening.

Angus Trumble, curator of Paintings and Sculpture at the Yale Center for British Art, spoke about Munnings' life and his rise to fame from a modest rural background. At the height of his career, Munnings' friends included Sir Winston Churchill, poet laureate John Masefield, and high-ranking military figures, racehorse owners, trainers, masters of foxhounds and "staunch farmers of the right breed," as Munnings phrased it.

Yale Curator Angus Trumble and Chairman's Council member Gordon Smith at the Munnings' opening April 20.

Diane Roe, administrator of the Sir Alfred Munnings Art Museum in England, plans to return to the NSL for the upcoming Munnings' symposium.

Lorian Peralta-Ramos, who is writing Munnings' catalogue raisonné, was on hand to enjoy the paintings and the lecture. Also in the audience was Diane Roe, administrator of the Sir Alfred Munnings Art Museum, which is located in Munning's former studio, house and grounds, Castle House, in Dedham, Essex, England. Roe came across the Atlantic for the first time for the occasion. Both experts are planning to attend the upcoming Munnings' symposium that the Library is holding on February 9, 2008. (The symposium is open to interested scholars and Library supporters; visit www.nsl.org for information.)

"I think Munnings would have been thrilled that an institution in the form of the National Sporting Library existed, and even more thrilled to see his paintings exhibited here," said Roe. "The NSL is an impressive testament to you in America who are embedded in the country, and the sports which are part of it."

The NSL show is part of an international collaboration among museums, educational institutions, and libraries to celebrate the centennial of Paul Mellon's birth.

Munnings' expert Lorian Peralta-Ramos is writing Munnings' catalogue raisonné.

Books

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Company and became the International Harvester Company—now Navistar International Corporation. This merger gave McCormick and his descendants a hold on the market of farming equipment for almost 150 years. Brooks McCormick was director of International Harvester from 1958 until his retirement in 1981, and chairman and CEO from 1971 to 1978. His family was also involved in banking, investments, real-estate, and news media—his cousin Col. Robert R. McCormick founded the Chicago Tribune Foundation.

The estate included a main stable and two subsidiary ones to house his foxhunters and carriages. "The main stable was absolutely classically English, with cobblestone floors and big heavy doors with bars and great big stalls," he added.

McCormick was known for his conservation as much as his philanthropy. In 2000, he agreed to sell his 620-acre St. James Farm to the DuPage County Forest Preserve District for $43 million. The estate connected with other surrounding forest preserves, forming a 3,500-acre conservation area of woods, wetlands, and farmland.

Thirty years earlier, McCormick helped finance DuPage County-based Conservation Foundation, a land preservation and environmental group active across the Chicago area.

McCormick was involved in a host of horse-oriented and preservation societies. He was a founder of the National Steeplechase Foundation, established in 1995 and dedicated to preserving and advancing steeplechase. He also supported the McCormick-International Harvester Collection, a cache of his great-uncle Cyrus' manuscripts and memorabilia relating to the inventor.

McCormick was preceded in death by his wife, Hope McCormick; his daughter, Martha Hunt; and his son, Mark. His daughter, Abby McCormick O'Neil, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild survive him.

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Coaching Weekend Offers Sponsorships

The NSL's Coaching Weekend Sept. 28-30 is fast approaching! Spectators can view the beautifully-restored coaches at 10 a.m. Saturday, when they gather at the Upperville Colt & Horse Show Grounds on Route 50. (There is no charge.) An announcer will go over the fascinating history of these vehicles, and there will also be a horn-blowing contest.

Later that evening, the black tie Gala at Llangollen will feature the music of Peter Duchin and his Orchestra. For information on the dinner-dance, please call 540-687-6542.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. A $15,000 Sponsor receives a premier table for 10 at the Saturday evening black-tie Gala; recognition in the formal Gala invitation; signage at the Gala; a full page in the Gala program; a listing on NSL web site as premier sponsor; two seats on a coach for Friday, Saturday and Sunday drives; a welcome reception on Thursday at the NSL that includes a tour of the current exhibition, *Reflections on a Life with Horses, Paintings by Sir Alfred Munnings from the Paul Mellon Collection*, led by Art Curator Betsy Manierre; a Saturday luncheon at Llangollen; and an informal Barbecue lunch on Sunday at the Upperville Show Grounds. A $10,000 Sponsor receives a similar package with two seats on a coach on Saturday. A $5,000 Sponsor receives a table for 10 at the Gala; a half page in the Gala program; recognition in the Gala invitation; signage at the Gala; and a listing on the NSL web site. A $1,000 Sponsor receives two tickets to the Gala, recognition in the Gala program, and a listing on the NSL website. A Table Sponsor commits to filling a table of ten at the Gala.

For information on becoming a sponsor, please call Nancy Parsons at 540-687-6542, ext 30.

Akre Appointed Treasurer of NSL

Chuck Akre is the NSL's new Treasurer.

The National Sporting Library's Board of Directors has selected Charles "Chuck" Akre of Hume, Va., as its new treasurer. Akre is eminently suited to oversee the Library's finances, having been in the securities business since 1968. Today he runs Akre Capital Management, a firm he started in 1989 that is presently located in Middleburg.

Chuck has appeared in many publications and television programs including *CNBC, CNN Financial News, Forbes, Fortune, SmartMoney, The Wall Street Journal*, and *The New York Times*, among others.

Akre holds a B.A. in English Literature from American University. He and his wife, Deanna, have three children, and he hunts with the Old Dominion Hounds.

The Library is grateful to former Treasurer Clarke Ohrstrom for his excellent leadership during his 10-year tenure. Ohrstrom remains very active on the Library's Board. He serves on the Investment Committee and the Planning Committee for Vine Hill. His ongoing service is deeply appreciated.

The Richard Stone Reeves' collection includes preparatory sketches for book illustrations as well as color reproductions of his original paintings.

Reeves' Collection Enhances Library Holdings

The National Sporting Library has received a treasure trove of research materials once belonging to the renowned equestrian artist Richard Stone Reeves of Oldwick, N.J., who died Oct. 7, 2005 at the age of 85. Reeves' son and daughter, Tony and Nina Reeves, generously donated a wealth of drawings, sketches, photographs, and books by the renowned equestrian artist, including their father's easel and palette, with his paints, now petrified on the palette, set just as he left them.

"Somebody could definitely make a study of the way Reeves worked by consulting this array of materials, including the sketches, photographs, and detailed notes he took on the horses he was commissioned to paint," said Librarian Lisa Campbell.

Reeves established a name for himself during the second half of the 20th century. Thoroughbred owners and breeders commissioned the painstakingly-accurate artist to paint portraits of their horses, and he developed a loyal following. Reeves' work also appears in many books, including *Royal Blood: Fifty Years of Classic Thoroughbreds* by Jim Bolus (Eclipse Press, 1994); *Legends: The Art of Richard Stone Reeves* by Edward Bowen (Oxmoor House, 1989); and *Crown Jewels of Thoroughbred Racing* by Richard Stone Reeves (Eclipse Press, 1997). *The Blood-Horse* also published several of his works, including, *Belmont Park: A Century of Champions*.

According to Reeves' daughter Nina Reeves of New York, the artist traveled far and wide to view the horses he was commissioned to paint. At the track, he'd speak to owners, trainers and jockeys about his subject. "That was his world," she said. Then he'd return to his studio and paint. "He had an enormous ability to focus, as is typical when someone's involved with their passion. He would work about eight hours at a shot in his studio everyday. He worked really hard."

Reeves' race-loving uncle lived near Belmont Park, and when Richard was a boy, his uncle would take him to the track. "That was his first exposure to that world, and that's how it all evolved," said Ms. Reeves.

Reeves' books, drawings, sketches, and reproductions, plus the meticulous notes that accompany them, complement the Library's growing art and book collections.

"The donation is particularly exciting, given that so many of his paintings are in private collections," said Art Curator Betsy Manierre. Even the Aga Khan, the Muslim philanthropist, owns a Reeves' original.

Irwin Uran Remembered

Chairman's Council member and Delaplane philanthropist Irwin W. Uran died June 24 at age 81. Mr. Uran, who was originally from New York, generously supported local governments, safety organizations, and community endeavors, including $1 million to the Town of Leesburg and to the Loudoun County Public Libraries. A $3 million donation launched the building of the Congregation Sha'are Shalmom, Loudoun's first synagogue. His many other donations includes gifts to the Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center and the Loudoun County Animal Shelter as well as the National Sporting Library.

Uran is survived by his wife, the Rev. Betsee Parker, and 4-year-old daughter Rosie.

Fans Enamored of Tapply Angling Books

Fifteen sporting books on angling and dogs from the estate of the noted outdoor sportswriter H. G. "Tap" Tapply have been added to the Library's collection, thanks to successful bids at Cobbs Auctioneers in Petersborough, NH. Most of these books are inscribed by the authors to Tapply, as well as the books written by Tapply and his son, William G. Tapply.

The name Tapply is a household word to people who love the outdoors, due to the many books he wrote and the column he contributed for 14 years in *Field & Stream*. *Tap's Tips: Practical Advice for All Outdoorsmen*, published in 1965, is a book based on these columns; its general strategies, specific tactics, and practical tips are delivered with Tapply's characteristic sense of humor and engaging down-to-earth philosophy.

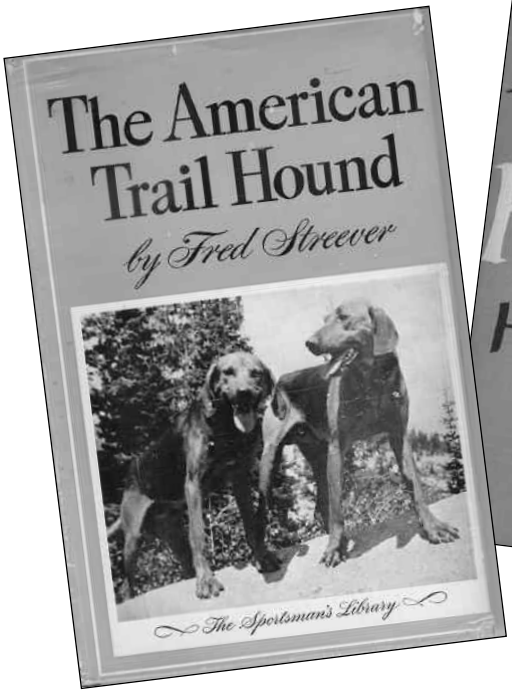
Tapply started his writing career in 1935, when the 25-year-old outdoorsman began contributing to *National Sportsman Magazine*, which later became *Outdoors Magazine*. In 1950 his friend Hugh Grey, the editor of *Field & Stream*, hired him as associate editor In that same year Tapply started his "Tap's Tips."

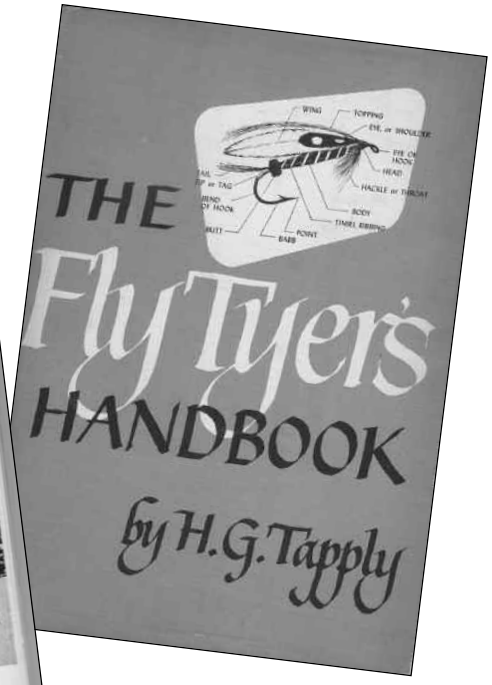
Tapply mentored and befriended many authors over the years, an impressive list which included Lee Wulff, Frank Woolner, Burton L. Spiller, Ed Zern, and others. His son Bill wrote in the introduction of an updated version of *Tap's Tips: Practical Advice for All Outdoorsmen*, "Most of them credited Tap for 'discovering' them back when they were aspiring outdoor writers. Tap, in turn, credited them for sharing their wisdom and expanding his outdoor experiences."

The books acquired include:

- Bill Ackerman, *Handbook of Fishes of the Atlantic Seaboard* (American Publication Co., 1951).
- Edward A. Briggs, *Hounds in the Hills* (S. Daye, 1938).
- Henry P. Davis, ed., *Modern Dog Encyclopedia* (Stockpole and Heck, 1949).
- Henry P. Davis, *Training Your Own Bird Dog* (G.P. Putnam's, 1948).
- Clayton Holt Ernst, *Deep-River Jim's Outdoors Guide* (Didier, 1947).
- J. Edson Leonard, *Flies: Their Origin, History, Tying…* (A.S. Barnes, 1950).
- Robert Page Lincoln, *Guide to Best Fishing* (Paul Richmond, 1948).
- Henry Lyman, *Tackle Talk* (A.S. Barnes, 1971).
- Tom Nixon, *Fly Tying and Fly Fishing for Bass and Panfish* (Wise Publications, 1999).
- C. Boyd Pfeiffer, *Tackle Craft* (Crown Publishers, 1974).
- Fred Streever, *The American Trail Hound* (A.S. Barnes, 1948).
- H. G. (Horace G.) Tapply, *The Fly Tyer's Handbook* (O. Durrell, 1949).
- H. G. (Horace G.) Tapply, *Tackle Tinkering* (A.S. Barnes & Co., 1946).
- H. G. (Horace G.) Tapply, *Tap's Tips: Practical Advice for All Outdoorsmen* (The Lyons Press, 2004).
- William G. Tapply, *Sportsman's Legacy* (Lyons & Burford, 1993).

—Louisa Woodville and Lisa Campbell





Tapply's books are a welcome addition to the NSL's collection.

Duplicate Book Sale Boasts Outstanding Entries

The National Sporting Library's 2007 Duplicate Book Sale consists of many promising entries this year, with over 250 lots. Many books will be of special interest including books from the Bedford, von Goeben, and Murdoch Collections.

Several foxhunting books are duplicates from Cricket Bedford's 2006 donation and have provenance from the estates of her grandparents, Dean and Louise Bedford, and father Erskine Bedford. *(See Summer 2006 newsletter.)*

A small number of very special sporting art and foxhunting books come from Hedda von Goeben, a long-time Library donor and friend of the late Alexander Mackay-Smith. All of these books are in excellent condition, perfect for the serious book collector.

The Duplicate Book Sale catalog will be mailed to all Library donors and friends in the first week of September by bulk mail. Bids will close Friday, November 2. For questions concerning the mailing, please contact Judy Sheehan at 540-687-6542, ext. 10. For questions about the books in the sale, please contact Lisa Campbell at ext. 13.

2006 National Sporting Library Annual Report of Donors

President's Letter

IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE that I write to thank each of you for your important contributions that fund the Library's day to day operations. The following list of donors acknowledges each contribution made to the National Sporting Library in the year 2006. The increasing awareness of the National Sporting Library and the expansion of our programs have resulted in consistent growth in financial support. The year 2005 ended with an increase in unrestricted giving of 8% over the previous year. We were extremely pleased with this increase. However, the 2006 totals were even more exciting. We ended the year 2006 with a 45% increase over the total unrestricted giving in 2005! This represents extraordinary growth in financial support, and we are deeply grateful to all of our loyal and generous donors.

The most dramatic growth occurred in the Chairman's Council. These generous donors contribute $2,500 or more annually to fund the operations of the Library. I am pleased to welcome all of the new participants to the Chairman's Council and to report that 2006 ended with the Chairman's Council numbering 113, an increase of 39% from the previous year. Once again, this represents growth at a significant level.

Visitation at the Library is also growing. In 2005, we welcomed 438 visitors to the Library, based on the number of signatures in the guest register. Visitors in 2006 numbered 692, representing a 57% increase in guests and researchers using the Library. These individuals have come from all over America as well as many foreign countries. This growth reflects the increasing awareness of the Library on a worldwide basis. Again, very exciting news!

Your gifts have enabled us to start a new series of lectures, highlighting treasures from the rare book room. A symposium on Alfred Munnings is scheduled for February 9, 2008, with an international lineup of speakers. New technology has improved internal records and enhanced the website. The John H. Daniels Fellowship is bringing increased awareness of the NSL to museums and educational institutions. The Library has produced a new informative brochure with updated information. Press coverage has increased in national and international publications. We are offering important art exhibits such as the paintings by Sir Alfred Munnings, as part of an international collaboration of museums to celebrate the life of Paul Mellon. The White House Historical Association has organized and loaned to the NSL an exhibit entitled *White House Horses*, which traces the role horses have played in the lives of American Presidents. We have many more exciting plans for the future, and we hope that we may continue to count on your support. Again, many thanks.

We hope you will visit and enjoy the Library often.

Sincerely,

President & CEO

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2006 Gifts-in-Kind

The Library gratefully acknowledges the following donations of books, art, real estate, and other tangible personal property.

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Stoutamyer Shares Book-Collecting Tips

Middleburg bookseller Rick Stoutamyer shared ideas about starting a book collection with Chairman's Council members on Thursday evening, June 14. Stoutamyer covered basic book collection 101, from making decisions on what to collect ("collect what you really love") to the importance of a dust jacket on a book, which enhances the value of those printed in the 20th century.

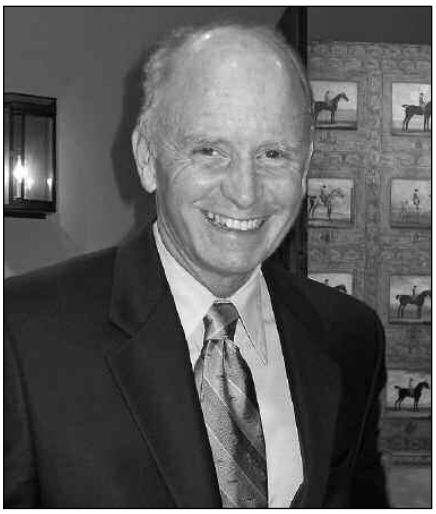
"You don't have to be rich to acquire a quality-collection of books," he said, explaining that one of the foremost Mark Twain collections in the United States was assembled by a high school principal over a period of years. "The key to collecting books, as opposed to accumulating books, is focus, planning, and becoming knowledgeable in your specific subjects of interest."

Stoutamyer's talk included information on books from the Library's rare book collection.

Audience participants found Stoutamyer informative and engaging. How many people knew, for example, that a "1" in a series of numbers by a copyright signifies a first printing? Or that philanthropist Paul Mellon collected books on alchemy?

Stoutamyer also shared information on determining first editions and understanding terminology unique to the book trade. He highlighted his points using the Library's own books from the F. Ambrose Clark Rare Book Room. He also referred to books from his own collection.

The lecture was part of the Library's Treasures of the Rare Book Room series.



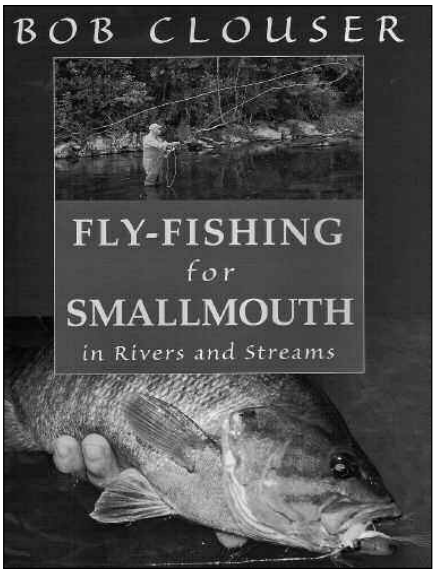
Left: Douglas Lees of Warrenton was particularly taken by the books on fly-fishing.

Right: Mary Catlett, Paul and Laura Dietrich were on hand to hear about the NSL's rare books.

Friends of Sporting Art Visit NSL

Art Curator Betsy Manierre gave a gallery talk for the Virginia Museum's Friends of Sporting Art on June 28. Virginia Museum of Fine Arts director, Alexander Lee Nyerges, and his wife Kathryn *(left)* attended with members of Friends of Sporting Art, a VMFA group that honors Paul Mellon's love of sporting art. The Richmond-based group also included Charles Seilheimer *(right)*.

Book Reviews



***Fly-Fishing for Smallmouth in Rivers and Streams* by Bob Clouser. Stackpole Books, 2007. 226 pages. 260 color photos, 17 illustrations. $39.95**

Bob Clouser's book, *Fly-Fishing for Smallmouth in Rivers and Streams*, is a beautifully illustrated celebration of smallmouth flyfishing.

The information and techniques presented in the book are a must-read and research tool for fly fishermen who can gain insight into the role of bait fish in the smallmouth diet as studied by Clouser in the Susquehanna River.

Clouser has guided on the Susquehanna River for 25 years and operates a fly shop in Middletown, Pennsylvania, near the legendary smallmouth river.

Chapter 4, "What They Eat," defines the importance of bait fish in the smallmouth diet. The chapter has vivid photographs of Clouser's deep minnow imitation and the bait fish that it imitates.

"Smallmouth will eat just about anything that moves," Clouser says, adding, "because most smallmouth streams have an array of minnows, dace, darters, sculpins and other forage fish including young trout, bass and sunfish, bait fish are the most important food items for smallmouth bass."

Clouser was named Angler of the Year in 2001 by *Fly Rod and Reel Magazine*, "the man behind the minnow." The minnow is his most famous fly, the Clouser deep minnow, which was designed to imitate bait fish.

"It's probably become the most effective fly developed in the last thirty years, certainly the most effective underwater fly," Lefty Kreh says in the *Fly Rod and Reel Magazine* article.

Kreh, a legendary fly fisherman, has fished extensively with Clouser and spoke at the National Sporting Library in April 2000.

In a chapter on presentations, Clouser's "Susquehanna strip" is explained, a technique developed on the Susquehanna River: "The fly darts during the strip and dips during the pause, portraying the behavior of an escaping bait fish."

"Bob, the reason your fly is so deadly is that it never stops moving, and neither does a bait fish that is trying to escape a predator," Kreh says on this unique technique. "After you strip once, pause before stripping again, and be ready to set the hook. Smallmouth will follow the fleeing streamer and inhale it the instant it pauses and starts to fall slowly toward the bottom."

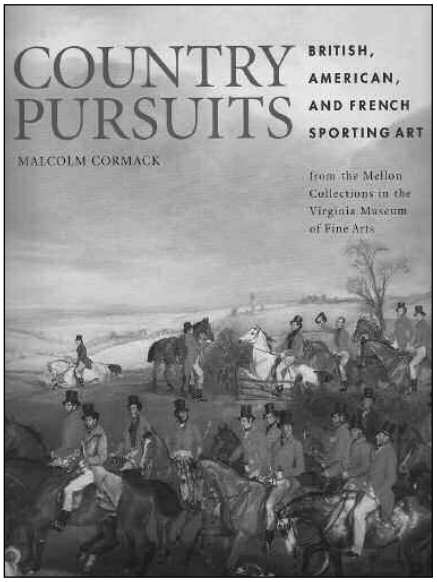
The Susquehanna River is famous for a whitefly hatch, which brings up all the fish to the surface in a feeding frenzy. "During a hatch of whiteflies, larger bass focus more on the smaller fish partaking of the feast than on the insects," Clouser relates in a chapter on what they eat.

Another crucial chapter in the book is Chapter 8, "Ten Tips to Catch a Trophy." The first tip is "Improve Your Casting." Two other chapters, "Casting" and "Presentations," also deal with casting and reinforce the vital importance of being able to cast long and short accurately.

Clouser relates a specific instance one hot August afternoon with Lefty Kreh where Kreh makes a 90-foot cast and hooks a 5-pound smallmouth. "Lefty Kreh has demonstrated to me time and again how necessary long casts are to fool clear-water [spooky] smallmouth," Clouser adds.

So, the next time you are fishing the Potomac or Shenandoah River, cast a chartreuse Clouser deep minnow and "be ready."

—*Douglas Lees*



***Country Pursuits: British, American and French Sporting Art from the Mellon Collections in the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts* by Malcolm Cormack. VMFA, University of Va. Press, 2007. 480 pages. 185 color illustrations, 40 illustrations. $75**

Malcolm Cormack's eye-catching book about Paul Mellon's generous donation of sporting art to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts brilliantly lays out this philanthropist's passion—sporting art. And no wonder. Malcolm Cormack, from 1991 to 2003 the Paul Mellon curator at the Center for British Art, researched and wrote this illustrated volume. He's a man who clearly knows his subject.

At first one may wonder if this book covers ground previously explored by Judy Egerton's two earlier books on Mr. Mellon's sporting art collections. In her four-volume set of *Sport in Art and Books* series published by Yale University Press (1978), there is virtually no overlap in the selection of paintings with those in *Country Pursuits*. Egerton mentioned in this series that only 400 of the 1,700 paintings in the Mellon collection were selected. Egerton's other book, *British Sporting Paintings—The Paul Mellon Collection*

in the Virginia Museum of Fine Art (1985) covers 58 paintings, while *Country Pursuits* covers 127 paintings, but still with only marginal overlap. One can quickly see the large scale of the Mellon collection.

Country Pursuits is divided into three sections: British Sporting Art, American Sporting Art, and French Sporting Art, each with an introductory essay and a catalogue of paintings. The British section, comprised of a 95-page introduction and 74 entries, clearly eclipses the American section with its 14-page introduction and 27 entries, and the French section (17 page introduction and 24 entries). But make no mistake, these are no ordinary "entries." These are paintings that jump off the page, paintings by George Stubbs, Ben Marshall, John Nost Sartorius, James Pollard, George Morland, George Catlin, Edward Troye, Winslow Homer, Ferdinand Delacroix and Pierre-Alfred De Dreux—in other words, the greatest names in sporting and animal art. And don't overlook the Munnings!

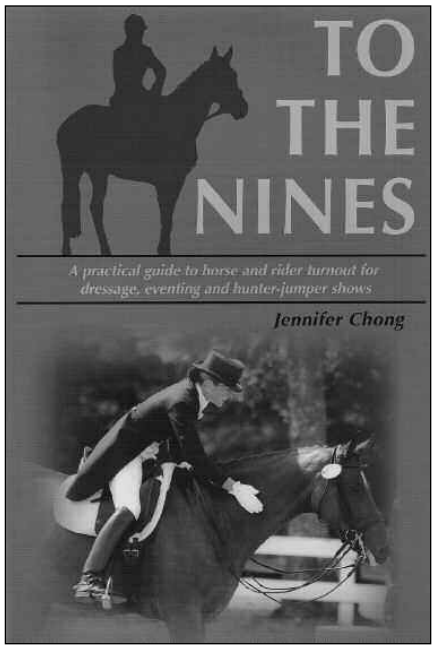
Every entry (a convenient term because single "entry" sometimes includes more than one work) is accompanied by a splendid color illustration, together with an occasional detail-illustration, while black and white photographs illustrate the introductory essays. A bibliography, brief bibliographical sketches of the artists, and an index, make up the concluding section of this book.

The three essays on the related three sections of the book are very detailed and relate to the artists, the paintings and historical background on sporting subjects. Cormack's attention to George Stubbs is very detailed and reasonably, given that Mellon has the largest collection of this artist in the world. He relates that the Stubbs' book of drawings, *The Anatomy of the Horse*, (1766) was a key reference work for many future sporting artists. The author also several times conveys the idea that sporting art is and always has been underappreciated.

The book is beautifully laid out with generous space of at least one page allocated for each painting and another page for corresponding text. The book will serve as a great reference for years to come.

—Joe Moran, Cowan Auctions

Note: Malcolm Cormack will lecture on his book at the NSL on Thursday, November 15.



***To the Nines: A practical guide to horse and rider turnout for dressage, eventing, and hunter-jumper shows* by Jennifer Chong. Alpine Publications, 2006. $19.95.**

Jennifer Chong's *To the Nines* nearly fulfills its promise—the book is an easily readable and well-organized guide to preparing horse and rider turnout for showing in eventing, dressage, or hunter-jumpers. But, it neglects to cover a few minor issues and, despite being clearly written, is poorly edited, containing a number of spelling and grammatical errors. Aside from these concerns, *To the Nines* is an excellent source for anyone just beginning their show career and contains a number of useful tips and suggestions for the seasoned veteran, gleaned from the author's years of experience in Pony Club and showing eventing and dressage.

The book is organized into four sections: rider, horse, tack, and show. The first encompasses everything from choosing the appropriate attire (including a wonderfully detailed section on tying stock ties!) to cleaning boots to keeping cool. For each discipline, Chong also provides a handy list of classic styles and recent trends. The section on the horse includes proper grooming techniques, bathing, braiding, and clipping.

Although seemingly tedious and repetitive for any experienced rider, Chong is clearly a perfectionist when it comes to preparing a horse for a show, and her tips on a number of subjects, from which shampoos to use, to dealing with chestnuts, and even a homemade remedy for leg fungus, will be useful to those at all levels.

The final two parts, on tack and shows, are similar-providing advice on selecting appropriate tack and caring for it, valuable tips on organizing everything before the big event, from paperwork to labeling each item, and even setting up a tack stall, and concludes with examples of packing lists.

My biggest complaint with the book is that in a few instances, especially braiding tails, Chong advises her reader to consult another source instead of simply explaining how to perform the task, while in other cases she covers what are probably unnecessary topics (such as the "Ladies Only" section). Apart from these minor shortcomings, *To the Nines* is a great comprehensive and compact guide for those riders new to showing, and its tips and suggestions are also useful for experienced riders.

—Sarah Cantor, a U. of Md. Art history graduate student, is an avid rider and member of the University's riding club.

Library Featured on PBS

The Library will be featured on a PBS television production called *Equitrekking*, to be aired on 352 different PBS stations starting in January. Producer Darley Newman visited the Library May 10 with a television crew to include the Library on a segment about Middleburg. Stay tuned!

Omission

The NSL regrets that it omitted to credit photographer Liz Callar for five photographs of the NSL's Wellington, Fla. event, featured on p. 5 of the Spring newsletter.

Recent Book Donations

Sporting collection – From the estate of Brooks McCormick, the NSL received an outstanding collection of 556 sporting books covering various topics including foxhunting, steeplechasing, sporting art, horsemanship, hunting and more. See cover story.

Artist's Collection – Richard Stone Reeves Jr., of Basking Ridge, N.J., and Nina Reeves, of New York City, donated the books and archive collection of their late father, Richard Stone Reeves. He was best known for his commissioned portraits of famous Thoroughbred horses and illustrations for books on the same. See story on page 5.

Racing history – Virginia Valentine, of Richmond, Va., donated *Pictorial Gallery of English Race Horses* by George Tattersall, published 1850, and *The Maryland Hunt Cup* by Stuart Rose (1931). Tattersall's book is an excellent reference on 19th century English race horses, and Rose's an important history on Maryland's prestigious race over timber.

Side-Saddle – Joy Roelofz, of Terrobonne, Oregon, donated a collection of books from the estate of her friend, Toby Ann Levy, consisting of books on side-saddle riding and horsemanship books for ladies. Many date from the 19th century and are new to the NSL collection.

Sporting art – University of Virginia Press, Charlottesville, Va., donated the recently published *Country Pursuits: British, American and French Sporting Art from the Mellon Collections in the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts* by Malcolm Cormack, former Paul Mellon Curator at the museum. This outstanding work is the best reference of sporting art to be published in years. See book review, page 8.

Economic impact studies – American Horse Council, Washington, D.C., donated a set of reports of equine industry economic impact studies published in 2005. These important studies cover the U.S. as a whole, and reports for California, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming. It would be great to have the reports donated by the remaining states' horse councils!

Angling literature – Trevor Potter, of Marshall, Va., donated two angling books by his friend, David Profumo, a well-known British fishing author and columnist for *Country Life*. The donation includes a signed copy of *In Praise of Trout* (1989) and *The Magic Wheel: An Anthology of Fishing in Literature* (1985).

Racing biography – Les Gross, of Middleburg, Va., donated his copy of *Yankee Doodle Dandy: The Life and Times of Tod Sloan* by John Dizikes (2000). Sloan (1874-1933) was the first jockey to quit race riding with the long straight leg while sitting upright for shortened stirrups and crouching low over the horse's neck.

Canine art – Edgar P. Leggett, of Purcellville, Va., donated two copies of *Dogs in Galleries* published in Italy 2003; one copy is in English, the other in Italian. These books are compilations of fine art, sculpture and tapestries in which the dog is a major subject of the works. They date from the Renaissance to modern.

Side-Saddle – Rhonda C. Watts, of Wilton, N.H., donated a copy of the book she compiled and edited, *Side-Saddle's Greatest Ideas: Contributions from side-saddle enthusiasts and friends* (2004). Watts gathered tips and advice concerning attire, tack, and competing.

Dogs in art and art history – William Secord, of New York City, donated three superb books he authored: *Dog Painting 1840-1940: A Social History of the Dog in Art* (1992); *Dog Painting: The European Breeds* (2000); and *A Breed Apart: The Art Collection of the American Kennel Club and the American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog* (2001).

Horse racing – Kay Minton, of Chantilly, Va., donated eight books on Thoroughbred racing topics including training, handicapping and fiction.

Horse show program – Susan Visintine, of Pickerington, Ohio, donated a copy of the 1941 *National Horse Show Official Magazine* from the estate of Susan Sexton.

Jim Wofford, left; his daughter Jennifer Ince; his wife Gail Wofford; and their son-in-law Charles Ince.

Wofford Signs New Book

Olympic medalist and three-day event coach Jim Wofford shared stories from his recently-published book, *Take a Good Look Around*, at the Library on May 17. The audience, which included eventing enthusiasts, book lovers, the Woffords' friends, and Library supporters, had an opportunity to purchase signed copies at the evening's end.

NSL Welcomes MFHA Centennial Finalists

Mason H. Lampton, president of the MFHA and MFH of the Midland Hounds in Georgia, congratulated and thanked finalists who came to Virginia for the final leg of the championship.

Foxhunters from all over the country gathered with organizers and friends at an evening garden party at the National Sporting Library May 26. The next day the finalists competed at Morven Park for the last leg of the Centennial Field Hunter Championship. The event was organized by the Masters of Foxhounds Association of North America to commemorate 100 years of organized foxhunting.

The Library donated the reception to mark the MFHA's year-long celebration. Among the attendees were junior rider Stuart Sanders of Virginia's Caroline Hunt, who rode Russian warmblood Sputnik to the overall championship the next day.

Penny Denegre and Viviane Warren were two of the three co-chairmen of the Centennial Field Hunter Championship (Kathleen O'Keefe is not pictured).

Upcoming Events

Friday, Sept. 28 - Sunday Sept. 30 - NSL Coaching Weekend

Saturday, Oct. 20 - Carrie Douglas, Professor of Anthropology at Mary Baldwin College, will lecture on Thomas Jefferson and horses.

Thursday, Nov. 15 - Former Virginia Museum of Fine Arts curator Malcolm Cormack lectures about his book, *Country Pursuits: British, American and French Sporting Art from the Mellon Collections in the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts* (see book review on page 8).

Thursday, Dec. 6 - Anne Greene, Curator of the University of Pennsylvania exhibition *Equus Unbound: Fairman Rogers and the Age of the Horse,* will deliver a lecture entitled *The Horse in 19th-century America.*

Saturday, Feb. 9 - Symposium on Alfred J. Munnings. Visit www.nsl.org for information.

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